

Abstract 677

TITLE: Building HIV Prevention infrastructure for African-American gay men

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ISSUE: African-American (AF-AM) gay men have been and continue to be one of the largest at-risk groups for HIV infection. They are also one of the groups where there is a dearth of research on proven interventions. There is an established need for standards of effective HIV prevention programs targeting AF-AM gay men.

SETTING: African-American gay male communities across the United States.

PROJECT: Several processes have been undertaken to develop standards of HIV prevention programs for Gay Men of Color (National Task Force on AIDS Prevention '95), Gay Men/Men Who Have Sex With Men (New York State AIDS Institute '99), African-American Gay Men (New York State Black Gay Men's Network '99). A review of these processes and documents provide a model for the articulation and execution of the necessary steps to building an HIV prevention infrastructure for AF-AM gay men.

RESULTS: The process review demonstrated that inclusion of the diversity within the African-American gay men's communities is critical (various geographies, socio-economic statuses, specialty areas, educational levels). There is also a need to focus the process (define key terms, define target population within AF-AM gay men's communities, determine an aspect of infrastructure building, determine target audience for results), in order to achieve tangible results. The document reviews demonstrated a desire for a model that is peer designed, driven, and executed. They also recognized the need for a coordinated approach to additional research, funding, and technical assistance, and a desire to maximize synergies with mainstream AF-AM organizations and gay organizations.

LESSONS LEARNED: When developing processes, incorporate the successful elements that were articulated in the results in regards to invitees and objectives. Execution of the consistently requested standards is needed.

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